

**Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program awards grant
for local waste-based biz**

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program enacted this year a new grants program to support local efforts that reduce solid waste. The first recipient of their fledgling grants program is '**Opportunity Connections**' (formerly *Columbia Gorge Center*), who supports people with disabilities throughout the Mid Columbia and with locations in both Hood River and Wasco counties. **Opportunity Connections** will use the \$57,636 grant to start local paper shredding business whose operation will reduce resource use, prevent increased landfill material and create jobs.

The waste-based business, "Gorge Security Shred" has three objectives; education, document destruction and recycling by selling bales of shredded paper to pulping operations. The pick-up and secure shredding of (mainly) business-generated paper is expected to create a full-time supervisory position and eight to ten positions for people with disabilities, as well as a half-time sales/marketing position (in the first year). While promoting the services of the document destruction business to potential customers, the company representative will be contacting the majority of businesses in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties. These contacts will help inform businesses as to the type of printed materials (to meet legal responsibility) that need to be shredded for security proposes and what type of printed material may be recycled without shredding. There is no local shredding company in these counties.

We anticipate that this project will lend itself to expansion in both volume and recycling categories that may be suitable for a location in Wasco County as well that will benefit not only their organization but the "reuse, reduce, recycle" effort in the Mid Columbia.

To find out more or to sign up your local business for secure shredding service, contact:
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